



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 144

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1998

No. 73

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BALLENGER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 9, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable CASS BALLENGER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3811. An act to establish felony violations for the failure to pay legal child support obligations, and for other purposes.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) for 5 minutes.

GUAM'S CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the Spanish-American War, which we are

in the 100th year commemorating this year, was not a self-contained event. To the contrary, those events 100 years ago have far-reaching consequences today.

The fact that I am standing here representing Guam, speaking from the floor of the House, is testimony to the effects of the Spanish-American War. Guam's American journey began on June 20, 1898, when Captain Glass, U.S. Commander of the USS *Charleston*, accepted the surrender of Spanish forces based on Guam. From that initial point, our relationship with the U.S. has progressed from an island governed by the Navy Department and subjected to travel restrictions to an American unincorporated territory with a democratically elected local government.

However, the people of Guam continue to strive for political development, and since 1988, Guam has continually requested a new political status, a Commonwealth with the United States. Unfortunately, this next step in our political development has not yet been fully addressed.

The centennial anniversary is a time of reflection for our island. I have spoken from the well many times on the significance of this occasion, and I believe the centennial anniversary of 100 years under American governance should be a time for enlightened retrospection on Guam's relationship with the U.S.

If one were to analyze our relationship with the United States, it does not take a think tank strategist to figure out that Guam was and continues to be of primary strategic importance in the Pacific. If you were to fly a 7-hour airplane trip from Guam in any direction, you will hit a larger percentage of the world's population than if you fly from any city inside the United States. In fact, Guam was first used by American forces as a coaling station, and today we are an important base for the forward deployment and strategic posi-

tioning of military forces in the Asia-Pacific region.

One would also easily notice that Guam's relationship with the United States is characterized by the faith of the people of Guam in the American system of government and promise for self-determination. For example, Guam's first petition regarding the clarification of their political status was in 1901, 2 years after Guam was acquired. In 1933 a petition signed by the island was presented asking for political status clarification.

Guam is the only American territory that was occupied by enemy forces during World War II. Not only did the people of Guam withstand brutal marches and abuse for 32 months under the occupation forces, men and women even risked their lives to clothe and feed U.S. servicemen hiding from the Japanese Army.

To assist in our efforts to further understand the Spanish-American War, I am pleased to announce that the University of Guam's Richard Flores Taitano Micronesia Area Research Center is sponsoring a conference entitled "The Legacy of the Spanish-American War, a Centennial Conference."

I would like to enter into the RECORD a calendar of events. We have international participants for this truly international issue. Academic and professionals from the United States, Spain, Germany, Philippines, and Guam will be on hand to discuss the Spanish-American War itself. On June 21, later on this month, there will be a reenactment of the raising of the American flag over Guam.

Commemorating the centennial of that flag-raising will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many. However, I would like to emphasize, that for the people of Guam, 1998 is a year of commemoration, a year to remember Guam's transfer from Spanish to American jurisdiction. It was an act of colonialism based upon a previous Spanish

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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